

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of an Internet connection information registration service, comprising the steps of:

performing a service for registering Internet
5 connection information for Internet connection on a portable recording medium by a write terminal which is installed in a store and is capable of connecting the portable recording medium while the portable recording medium is being connected to the write terminal; and

10 obtaining a predetermined compensation for the store from a provider selected by a user.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein a developer of the Internet connection information registration service also obtains a predetermined
15 compensation from the provider selected by the user.

3. A method according to claim 2, further comprising the steps of

sending a notification representing completion of registration of the Internet connection information on
20 the portable recording medium by the write terminal from the terminal to an agreement count apparatus of the Internet connection information registration service developer,

counting, by the agreement count apparatus, the
25 number of subscribers to each provider in units of stores,

periodically sending a count result from the

agreement count apparatus to a corresponding provider,
and

on the basis of the sent count result, calculating
the compensations to be acquired from the provider by
5 each store and the Internet connection information
registration service developer.

4. A method of an Internet connection information
registration service, comprising the steps of:

receiving information necessary for Internet
10 connection from a terminal of an Internet provider
selected by a user at a write terminal which is
installed in a store and is capable of connecting
a portable recording medium;

generating Internet connection information for
15 Internet connection on the basis of the received
information; and

registering the Internet connection information on
the portable recording medium by the write terminal,
thereby obtaining a predetermined compensation for
20 the store from the provider selected by the user.

5. A method according to claim 4, wherein
a developer of the Internet connection information
registration service also obtains a predetermined
compensation from the provider selected by the user.

25 6. A method according to claim 5, further
comprising the steps of

sending a notification representing completion of

registration of the Internet connection information on
the portable recording medium by the write terminal
from the terminal to an agreement count apparatus of
the Internet connection information registration
5 service developer,

counting, by the agreement count apparatus, the
number of subscribers to each provider in units of
stores,

periodically sending a count result from the
10 agreement count apparatus to a corresponding provider,
and

on the basis of the sent count result, calculating
the compensations to be acquired from the provider by
each store and the Internet connection information
15 registration service developer.

7. An Internet connection setting method using
a portable recording medium, comprising the steps of:

receiving information necessary for Internet
connection from a terminal of an Internet provider
20 selected by a user at a write terminal which is
installed in a store and is capable of connecting the
portable recording medium;

generating Internet connection information for
Internet connection on the basis of the received
25 information and registering the Internet connection
information on the portable recording medium;

when the portable recording medium having the

Internet connection information registered thereon
is connected to an electronic device in which an
application program capable of automatically loading
the Internet connection information is registered in
advance, automatically activating the application
program and loading the Internet connection information
from the portable recording medium; and

executing, in the electronic device, connection
setting for Internet connection on the basis of the
loaded Internet connection information.

8. A method according to claim 7, wherein
the registration step comprises the steps of
inputting an arbitrary password for protecting the
Internet connection information to the write terminal,
and

encrypting the input password in accordance with
a predetermined algorithm and registering the encrypted
password in a predetermined area of the portable
recording medium, and

the execution step comprises the steps of
causing the user to perform operation of inputting
a password in Internet connection setting in the
electronic device,

executing predetermined processing for the input
password and comparing/collating the input password
which has undergone the predetermined processing with
the encrypted registered password on the predetermined

area, thereby determining authenticity of the user, and
executing the Internet connection setting on the
basis of a determination result.

5 9. An Internet connection setting method for an
electronic device capable of connecting a portable
recording medium, comprising the steps of:

when the portable recording medium having Internet
connection information of an Internet provider selected
by a user at a write terminal installed in a store is
10 connected to the electronic device, automatically
activating a predetermined application program for
Internet connection setting; and

loading the Internet connection information from
the portable recording medium in accordance with the
15 application program and executing, in the electronic
device, connection setting for Internet connection on
the basis of the Internet connection information.

10 10. A method according to claim 9, wherein
the execution step comprises the steps of
20 if a password input by the user who has selected
the Internet provide is registered on the portable
recording medium, causing the user to perform operation
of inputting a password,

determining authenticity of the user by comparing/
25 collating the input password with the registered
password, and

executing the Internet connection setting on the

basis of a determination result.

11. A method according to claim 9, wherein the Internet connection setting is dialup connection setting based on the Internet connection information.

5 12. An Internet connection information registration method at a write terminal for an Internet connection service, which is capable of connecting a portable recording medium, comprising the steps of:

causing a user to perform operation of selecting
10 a desired Internet provider;

inputting information necessary for a provider agreement with the Internet provider selected by the user operation;

transmitting the input information to a terminal
15 of the selected Internet provider through a communication line, thereby receiving information necessary for Internet connection from the provider terminal; and

generating Internet connection information for Internet connection on the basis of the received
20 information and registering the generated Internet connection information on the portable recording medium connected to the write terminal.

13. A method according to claim 12, wherein

the input information contains at least one of
25 a method of paying a charge to the Internet provider selected by the user and a candidate of a mail account requested by the user, and

the Internet connection information is information for dialup connection.

14. A computer-readable recording medium which records an Internet connection setting application program, comprising:

5 means, activated when a portable recording medium is connected to an electronic device, for loading Internet connection information for Internet connection from the portable recording medium when the Internet connection information is registered on the portable recording medium; and

10 means for performing connection setting for Internet connection in the electronic device on the basis of the Internet connection information loaded from the portable recording medium.

15 15. A computer-readable recording medium which records an Internet connection setting application program, comprising:

20 means, activated when a portable recording medium having a secret area accessible only by a private procedure, where media identification information unique to the portable recording medium is stored, and a public area which can be arbitrarily externally accessed is connected to an electronic device capable of connecting the portable recording media, for

25 loading Internet connection information for Internet connection, which is encrypted by the media

identification information, from the portable recording medium when the Internet connection information is registered on the portable recording medium;

means for performing mutual authentication
5 with the portable recording medium and exchanging authentication keys;

means for acquiring the media identification information encrypted by the authentication key from the portable recording medium;

10 means for decrypting the acquired media identification information by the authentication key and decrypting the encrypted Internet connection information loaded from the portable recording medium using the decrypted media identification information;
15 and

means for executing a step of executing connection setting for Internet connection in the electronic device on the basis of the decrypted Internet connection information.

20 16. A medium according to claim 15, further comprising

means for checking whether a password encrypted by a predetermined algorithm is registered in the public area of the portable recording medium,

25 means for, when the password is registered, causing a user to input a password, executing predetermined processing for the input password, and comparing

and collating the password which has undergone the predetermined processing with the password registered in the public area, and

means for ending processing when mismatching
5 between the passwords is detected by the comparison and collation.

17. A computer-readable recording medium which records an Internet connection information registration application program for providing a user service for
10 registering Internet connection information for Internet connection on a portable recording medium, comprising:

means for causing a user to perform operation of selecting a desired Internet provider;

15 means for receiving information necessary for Internet connection from a terminal of the Internet provider selected by the user operation; and

means for generating Internet connection information for Internet connection on the basis of
20 the received information and registering the Internet connection information on the portable recording medium.

18. A computer-readable recording medium which records an Internet connection information registration
25 application program for providing a user service for registering Internet connection information for Internet connection on a portable recording medium

having a secret area accessible only by a private procedure, where media identification information unique to the portable recording medium is stored, and a public area which can be arbitrarily externally accessed, comprising:

means for causing a user to perform operation of selecting a desired Internet provider;

means for receiving information necessary for Internet connection from a terminal of the Internet provider selected by the user operation;

means for performing mutual authentication with the portable recording medium and exchanging authentication keys while the portable recording medium is being connected to a write terminal;

means for acquiring the media identification information encrypted by the authentication key from the portable recording medium; and

means for, while the acquired media identification information is decrypted by the authentication key, generating Internet connection information for Internet connection on the basis of the received information, encrypting the Internet connection information by the decrypted media identification information, and registering the Internet connection information on the portable recording medium.

19. A medium according to claim 18, further comprising

means for inquiring a user whether the Internet connection information need be protected by a password, and

5 means for, when protection by the password is requested, causing the user to perform operation of inputting an arbitrary password, encrypting the input password in accordance with a predetermined algorithm, and registering the encrypted password in the public area of the portable recording medium as a key for
10 acquiring the media identification information from the secret area of the portable recording medium.

20. An Internet connection information write terminal for providing a user service for registering Internet connection information for Internet connection
15 on a connected portable recording medium, comprising:

provider list window display means for displaying a provider list window for causing a user of the portable recording medium to perform operation of selecting a desired Internet provider;

20 information acquisition means for acquiring information necessary for Internet connection from a terminal of the Internet provider selected by the user operation on the provider list window; and

Internet connection information registration means
25 for generating Internet connection information for Internet connection on the basis of the acquired information and registering the Internet connection

information on the portable recording medium.

21. A terminal according to claim 20, further
comprising registration completion notification means
for sending a notification representing completion of
5 registration by said Internet connection information
registration means to an agreement count apparatus for
counting the number of subscribers to each provider on
the provider list window in units of stores where said
Internet connection information write terminal is
10 installed.